Design Resource

Bamboo Tray - Agartala, Tripura

Utility Product

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
https://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-tray-agartala-tripura

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

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Introduction

The third-smallest state in the country, Tripura is a state in Northeast India. The Kokborok speaking Tripuri people are the major group among 19 tribes and many sub-tribes. The modern 'Tripura' was ruled for several centuries by the Tripuri dynasty. The name of the state Tripura is associated with the Hindu goddess of beauty Tripura Sundari. The Goddess is the presiding deity of the Tripura Sundari Temple at Udaipur, one of the 51 Shakti Peethas which is 'pilgrimage centers of Shaktism'. The name is also linked to the legendary tyrant king Tripura, who ruled in the region. Mainstream Indian Bengali culture elements coincide with traditional practices of the ethnic groups, such as various dances to celebrate religious occasions, weddings, celebrations, the use of locally crafted musical instruments, clothes, and the worship of regional deities.

Due to the tropical savanna climate, Tripura has heavy rain. Therefore it is the highest bamboo and cane growing state. The state is known as the bowl for bamboo and cane handicrafts in India. Bamboo is used all over in Indian craft and culture. Apart from Tripura places like Nagaland, Meghalaya, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh are famous for Bamboo crafts. Most of the time tribal communities use bamboo products for their basic needs as it is abundantly grown on the earth's surface. Debbarma, Jamatia, Reang, Tripura, Noatia are the major tribal groups in Tripura.

Bamboo is used to make mats, baskets, hand-held fans, accessories, and interior decoration products. Wood and cane are used to create an array of furniture, utensils, idols, and other products. The handicrafts of Agartala, the capital of Tripura, are intricate and thoroughly decorated. They specialize in a wide range of screens, baskets, wall panels, planters made of gossamer-thin bamboo strips. A solid but thinly split bamboo pasted on plywood to make wall panels. For making containers, bamboo is turned on a hand lathe machine. The tribe community's womenfolk makes bamboo trays, house-hold items, and jewelry pieces in their free time from the house-hold duties.

Artisans of the bamboo tray.

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Artisan explaining about the Bamboo tray.

Semi-finished bamboo trays.

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Senior artisan collecting the semi-finished trays.

The bamboo rings.

The base of the tray.

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Process of bamboo tray making.

The process of making bamboo strips.

The product of bamboo tray.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials that are used for making of bamboo tray are:

- **Bamboo Sticks:** These are used to weave the bamboo tray.
- **Knife:** It is used to trim the extra bamboo as per the required measurement.
- **Adhesive:** It is used to stick the measured piece of bamboo in a required shape.

Bamboo is the main raw material for tray making.

The knife is used to cut the bamboo strips.

The adhesive is used to paste the bamboo bar.

Wood Bar is used as a support while cutting the bamboo.

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Bamboo is cut into small and thin strips.

A toothbrush is used to apply the adhesive on the bamboo tray border.

The sandpaper is used for scraping.

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Making Process

Making process starts by slitting lengthy bamboo into small thin pieces. In the case of weaving a bamboo tray, the Artisan cuts 32 splits from a single bamboo. The outer skin of the bamboo is peeled. Small splits of bamboo are used to weave the walls of the tray. Two layers will be designed to make it hold strong by arranging the bamboo strips in a crisscrossing manner. The weaving patterns are similar for all the trays. Almost after completing the half weaving of the sidewall of the bamboo tray, they keep a gap at the base. Initially, the base part is made with thicker bamboo strips than the sidewall. Once base weaving is completed, the sidewall of the tray will be woven. Then after completion, it is kept under the sun to dry for an hour. A raw bamboo stick as per the required size is chopped as a thick layer by using a knife. Selected bamboo pieces are used for a round-shaped bamboo ring. Sticking both ends of the bamboo with white adhesive will form the round shape. With the help of a knife, all the extra scraps are removed from the bamboo strip. After drying, the wall part of the tray, which looks similar to the shape of a wheel, is being kept for fixing a broad and thick strip of bamboo to form the bamboo tray that makes the rim for a bamboo tray. The rim helps for a better grip. The extra bamboo strips over the rim will be chopped off by using a knife, and the adhesive will be applied on the rims for a stronghold. A useful Bamboo tray is being completed.

Artisan Start cutting the Bamboo into small pieces.

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Artisan Start cutting the Bamboo into small pieces.

Artisan is cutting the bamboo strips for the tray.

Artisan curved the bamboo strips to make a ring.

Strips are arranged to make the base of the bamboo tray.

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Strips of bamboo are run through the loops and weaved.

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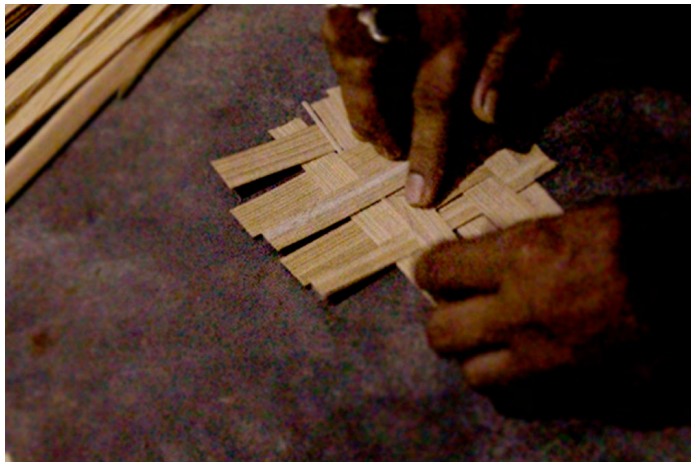
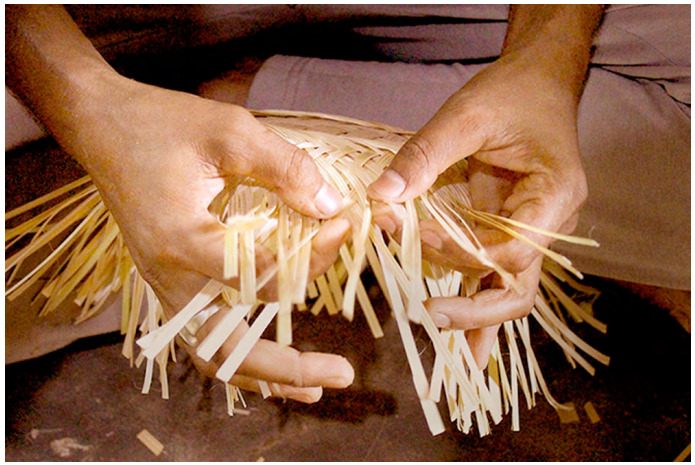


The Artisan has done the middle base of tray weaving and attaches it to form.

The Artisan has done the middle base of tray weaving and attaches it to form.

Weaving in process.



Weaving in process.

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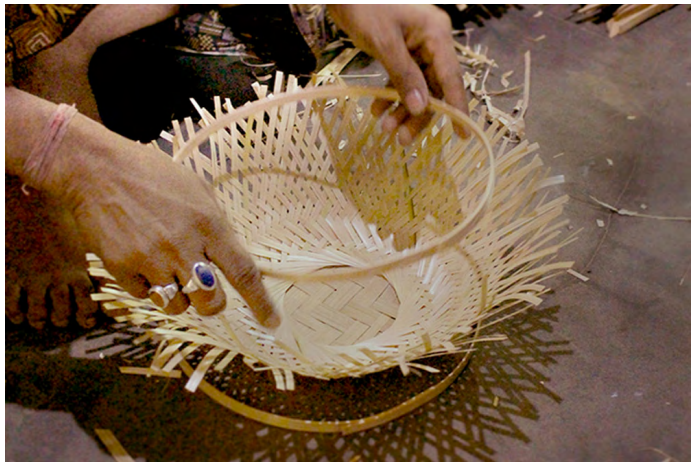
Two ends of bamboo strips are attached for making the ring shape.

Artisan made so many bamboo rings.

Two different sizes of bamboo rings are taken for making the bamboo tray.



The bigger ring is kept below, and a smaller ring is kept upside to make the tray border.

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The bigger ring is kept below, and a smaller ring is kept upside to make the tray border.

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The Artisan is pulling the two rings to make the bamboo tray border.

The Artisan checking the proper shape of the bamboo tray.

Then the extra bamboo strips at the edges are cut with the help of a knife.

Then the extra bamboo strips at the edges are cut with the help of a knife.

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The edges of a bamboo tray are rubbed with sandpaper to make a smooth surface.

A toothbrush is used for applying the diluted gum on the bamboo tray edges.

Semi-finished bamboo tray.

Beautifully weaved bamboo tray.

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Products

Artisan named Mitan Debnath manufacture 100 to 1000 baskets from one completely grown bamboo. The price range of the bamboo basket is around 10 INR to 12 INR. The bamboo baskets are sold in different colours like green, black, red, and yellow.

Artisan showing the product.

The final product of a beautiful bamboo tray.

The final product of a beautiful bamboo tray.

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Video

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